

Capital: Nicosia

Population: The Government of Cyprus estimates that the island's total population is 780,133 (July 2005 est.)

Unrecognized estimates of the population in the area administered by the Turkish Cypriots would increase the island's population to approximately 900,000.

GDP (current market prices, in \$ million)

Government-controlled area (2004): \$15.4 billion

Area Administered by TCs (2004): \$1.6 billion

GDP Per Capita (PPS)

Government-controlled area (2004): \$20,961

Area Administered by TCs (2004): \$7,350

Religion: Greek Orthodox 78%, Muslim 18%, Maronite, Armenian Apostolic, and others 4%

Language: Greek, Turkish, English

President of the Republic of Cyprus: Tassos Papadopolos

Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to U.S.: Euripides Evriviades



The area north of the UN patrolled Buffer Zone is administered by the Turkish Cypriots. The "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," is recognized only by Turkey.

National Interest: The U. S. seeks to increase stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and, to prevent threats to essential U.S. and allied interests. The long-standing dispute between Greece and Turkey and the continuing division of Cyprus between the geographically separated Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities continues the tension between two important NATO allies in the Eastern Mediterranean and the context of relations between NATO and EU. Finding a resolution to the Cyprus dispute remains a key U.S. priority. The goal is a settlement based on a bi-zonal, bicommunal federation in which Cypriots from both communities can live in security and prosperity.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN CYPRUS

FY05 ESF est. appropriation : ESF - \$13.5 million, USAID FY '05 Total - \$ 8.6 million

Bicommunal Development Program (BDP) (FY 05: \$8.6 million): The BDP supports projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work together on common problems and issues. All projects are designed to reduce tensions and promote peace and cooperation between the two communities. The BDP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and supports multisectoral activities cooperatively planned and implemented with the participation of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. These bicommunal development initiatives serve to benefit both communities and include activities in public infrastructure, environmental management, public health and animal health, agriculture, urban renewal, historic preservation, the development of non-governmental organizations, economic development, and information education and communication.

Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth Program (CyPEG): (FY 04 funds: \$25 million; No-year funds: \$5.5 million): The CyPEG is intended to complement existing programs by accelerating economic growth in the Turkish-Cypriot community in ways that will (1) enable the Turkish Cypriot economy to shoulder its share of the economic costs of a settlement; (2) contribute to Turkish Cypriot-Greek Cypriot economic interaction; and (3) advance the adoption and implementation of European Union and international standards and practices across the island. Activities will focus on small and medium enterprise development/competitiveness; strengthening the banking sector; and promoting the efficient use of the island's scarce resources such as water and energy.

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